

POLREP 0150th and Hayes

743, 745, 731, 729, 738, 740, and 737 50th Street NE
Washington, D.C. 20019

Attn: RRC, C. Kleeman, L. Richardson, J. Hargett (3HS33), P. Larkin (DCARP01),
P. Kurgan (D.C. ECU)

EVENT: Site Assessment

I. SITUATION (as of 19 February 1999)

- A. On September 10, 1998, EPA Region III's Regional Response Center received notification from D.C. Environmental Crimes Unit Detective Paul Kurgan that the site, located at 50th and Hayes, was contaminated with waste oil/petroleum, tires, and other flammable materials. Although drums of cleaning solvents had been dumped on-site, they had since been removed by D.C. Department of Public Works, according to Detective Kurgan. However, it was alleged that ongoing contamination of the site was impacting the environment, including an elementary school located across the street from the property.
- B. Legal ownership of the property was unclear, with the property in foreclosure. The OSC, through cooperative efforts with EPA Civil Investigators and ORC, obtained access permission for assessment and, if necessary, sampling in February 1999 and planned a site visit with Detective Kurgan.
- C. On February 10, 1999, OSCs Kevin Boyd and Colby Stanton traveled to the site with Detective Kurgan and Detective Anita Chavis of the DC Environmental Crimes Unit, along with two representatives of EPA's Site Assessment Technical Assistance (SATA) contractor to assist in the assessment and sampling. The weather was sunny and mild, with temperatures near 50 degrees Fahrenheit.
- D. Detectives Kurgan and Chavis provided additional information on the operations that had taken place at the site. The operator had first run a legal autobody shop, called Quality Auto Shop, but had apparently begun operating an illegal chop shop on the location. The buildings were burnt down, and the operator had fled (with Detectives Kurgan and Chavis attempting to locate and arrest the gentleman). After the operator fled, the location became the site of unauthorized dumping. In addition, as a result of the operations on-site, the soils on the property were impregnated with oil and other petroleum products.

II. ACTIONS

- A. The property included lots on both sides of 50th Street. On one side of the street, the site included approximately 1/4 of a city block, with a burnt-out building on the north end. Two 55-gallon drums were found in an area adjacent to the building on its south side; while the area was fenced, the fence was decrepit and open in several areas. SATA sampled the two drums, which were open to the atmosphere. The drums were approximately 3/4-full and appeared to contain mostly water, with a few inches of sludge/oil-like material on their bottom layers.
- B. Across the street, there was another fenced-in area, again surrounded by badly damaged fence and open to the street, that had been part of the same operator's location. The soil appeared to be deeply impregnated with petroleum products. However, the OSCs identified no apparent pathway to any navigable waterway by which the oil could threaten the environment. The OSCs traversed the extent of the property and found no visible indications of potential contamination with hazardous substances.

III. FUTURE ACTIONS

- A. The samples taken from the two drums are being analyzed for target analyte list (TAL) inorganics and target compound list (TCL) organics content. Further action regarding these drums will depend upon the results of this analysis.
- B. With the possible exception of the contents of the drums, the OSCs found no evidence of an immediate threat to public health or the environment from the site. As a result, again with the possible exception of the two drums found on the site, the OSCs do not believe that this site warrants further assessment under the Removal Program.

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